

Tom Horne  
Superintendent

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## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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### **HORNE PRAISES ARIZONA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION FOR FAST ACTION TO ADDRESS FUNDING ISSUE FOR ALL ARIZONA CHARTER SCHOOLS**

PHOENIX (June 24, 2005) – State schools chief Tom Horne strongly approves the action, led by the Arizona delegation, taken today in the U.S. House of Representatives. If enacted into law, it would prevent the U.S. Department of Education from withholding federal funds for low income and special education students from some Arizona charter schools.

The U.S. House, led by Arizona Congressmen John Shadegg, Jeff Flake, Jim Kolbe, J.D. Hayworth, Trent Franks and Rick Renzi approved amendment language to the Labor-Health and Human Services and Related Agencies appropriations bill that would prevent the U.S. Department of Education from taking action to withhold federal dollars directed to charter schools owned by for-profit entities.

"I applaud the U.S. House of Representatives for taking this step to prevent an injustice from occurring against Arizona's charter schools," Horne said. "I have been fighting tirelessly to ensure that all Arizona charter schools obtain the funding to which they are entitled. A major part of that strategy has been to work with Arizona's Congressional delegation to accomplish that goal."

"Charter schools are public schools in every way. They cannot refuse to accept special education and low income students. They are required by state law to accept them. Therefore it is unfair for the federal government to deny funding for those same low income and special education students."

The U.S. Department of Education has agreed with a finding by the Office of Inspector General that disallows for-profit charter schools from receiving funds under Title I of No Child Left Behind as well as the Individuals with Disabilities Act. Superintendent Horne has vigorously opposed this decision.

"I am hopeful that the U.S. Senate will adopt this language in its version of the appropriations bill and that it will be signed into law by President Bush," Horne added. "It is important to ensure that all schools be treated equally under the law."

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